



## GUEST OPINION ARTICLE

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*This guest opinion is by State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D.  
Length: About 210 words*

### **Surviving Cancer Often Brings New Challenges** by State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D.

Chances are, someone you care about is a cancer survivor. In fact, three out of four American families will have at least one family member diagnosed with cancer. In North Dakota, about 22,000 of our friends, neighbors and family members are cancer survivors.

A cancer survivor is anyone living with a history of cancer – from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of his or her life. Each hour, each day from that moment, time as a cancer survivor increases.

Major advances in cancer prevention, early detection and treatment have all resulted in longer survival. Surviving cancer, however, can result in a host of other challenges. Physical, emotional and financial hardships often persist long after diagnosis and treatment. Survivors may face issues of pain management, long-term side effects of treatment, profound fear of recurrence, concern about job security and insurability, and decisions about end-of-life care. Despite these difficulties, cancer survivors can live active, productive lives.

It is our hope that fewer people are diagnosed with and more people survive cancer. Together, we can fight the battle against cancer.

Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed June 3, 2007, as Cancer Survivors Day in North Dakota. I urge you to join me in recognizing and honoring cancer survivors in our lives on this day. They truly are heroes.

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*Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at [www.nddohpressroom.gov](http://www.nddohpressroom.gov).*

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